



Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)

Regular Meeting – Thursday, February 12, 2015 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager's Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall
Minutes

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) - Chairman Mark Trahan, Tony Martino - Town Council, Gioia Zack, Mirella D'Antonio, Leslie Civitello - Chamber of Commerce, Joan Hughes, Dorcas McHugh, Peter O'Keefe, Leigh Standish - Planning and Zoning Commission, Peter Gillespie - Director of Planning & Economic Development, Jeff Bridges - Town Manager and Denise Bradley - Assistant Planner.
3. Old Business
 - a. Vacant Property Updates - Peter Gillespie discussed the following:
 - 341 Jordan Lane - Real Estate Negotiations underway for a potential partial demo and reuse.
 - 1178 Silas Deane Highway - The owner indicated that there were a few interested parties. Property maintenance orders complied with.
 - 295 Ridge Road - Met with a new interested developer for multi-family.
 - 125 Silas Deane Highway - Center space may be filled in April.
 - 1000 Silas Deane Highway - Working with owner to obtain demolition estimates and discuss potential end uses.
 - 2180 Berlin Turnpike - Interested developer.
 - b. Grant Project Status
 1. Heritage Walk – HFPG and CT Humanities - Peter Gillespie reported that the bids had come in. Looking to have the bid awarded by Town Council in February and installation in late May 2015.
 2. Church/Main Street Intersection – A public meeting was held on January 29th.
 3. STEAP 2014 – 1000 Silas Deane Highway - Draft agreement is being reviewed and revised with the State and the developer. Demolition stage hopefully this winter.
 4. STEAP 2015 - Peter Gillespie noted that an application was submitted for the Solomon Welles House in the amount of \$500,000. He noted that ideas were solicited from the various town departments.
4. New Business
 - a. Business Directory - ShopWethersfield.biz - Community Art Contest to design "Woogle" header. The Directory is live, still working on the roll out. functionality and we will meet with IT to finalize the
 - b. Façade Improvement Program and Policy Changes - Peter Gillespie reported that the Town Council voted to approve the suggested changes.

- d. Community Photo Contest 2014 - The winners were recognized at the Salute to Business. A meeting of the photographers will take place in the spring to discuss the next Contest.
 - e. Town Calendar 2015 - The calendar is available and will continue to be distributed.
 - f. Welcome Wagon/New Business/Ribbon Cutting – 2015
 - g. Why Wethersfield - 2015 - Ask the IT Department to look into securing the "Why Wethersfield" domain name.
5. Other Business - There was no other business to report.
6. Reports Town Manager's Report – Jeff Bridges reported on the following:
 - Entering budget season, introduced \$22 million in bonds for the High School
 - Decrease in Paine's collection rates
 - WHS - New gyms and band rooms opened upTown Council Liaison's Report – Tony Martino reported on the approval of the 1303 Union Contract, met with the auditors on the Pension Plan and the town is doing very well. The gas bid also came in lower.
Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Leigh Standish reported on the highlights of the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting.
Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Dorcas McHugh reported on coordinating a package for tour operators.
Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – Leslie Civitello reported on upcoming Chamber Events.
Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie noted his report is available.
7. Chairman's Report – Mark Trahan had nothing additional to report.
8. Sub-Committee Reports Marketing and Communications – A meeting will be held on Monday February 23rd at 9:00 AM.
Financial Strategies – A meeting will be held on Tuesday February 24th at 9:15 AM.
9. Minutes – January 8, 2015 Meeting - Dorcas McHugh made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
10. Next Meeting – Thursday April 9, 2015
11. Correspondence - There was no additional correspondence.
12. Adjournment - Dorcas McHugh made a motion to adjourn. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley - Assistant Planner